

Digital Humanitarians

How technology and new methods can improve
different aspects of humanitarian aid

A Brave New World

Smartphones everywhere – and they are user friendly!

More things than ever available online – potentially **all the world's knowledge** (but still a long way to go!)

More **people want to help online** – crowdsourcing information, time & computer power

Internet is now **multilingual** – and *no one* is better than Wikimedia (300+ languages)



Wikimedia is the organizations behind **Wikipedia**,
Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata and a number of
other OERs.

100,000 **volunteers** / 300 **staff**

Mostly paid for by individual **donations**

Chapters in **40 countries**

A non-profit!



Free knowledge reaches further

Wikipedia Zero = **free access to ca. 600 million people** in 64 countries. The operator "zero-rates" access to Wikimedia sites in their billing system.

Kiwix = a system for **offline access to Wikipedia**, perfect for schools, universities or prisons.



Wikimedia and Culture



Increasing visibility to highlight cultural heritage in the country.

Digital preservation of the cultural heritage, in case it is damaged or destroyed.

Two cool projects:

Wiki Loves Monuments – the world's largest photo contest.

Kopplat Öppet Kulturarv /Connected Open Heritage

Creating a **multilingual cultural heritage database** for the world.

Gathering historical images from museums, libraries and archives (100,000+ images).

Including the data and the images to Wikipedia to give context.

Organizing a photo exhibition.

Supported by the the Culture Foundation of the Swedish Postcode Lottery.





Wikimedia and Democracy

Volunteers gather the information that is needed for **citizens to be informed**

People **share their knowledge** and by doing so get a voice

People discuss what to include on Wikipedia and to find a middle ground, a **neutral point of view**



Wikimedia and Education

Create a **global library** and to align the material with school curriculums.

Students are actively involved.

Great tool to learn about the Internet, **source criticism**, internet culture, copyright, sharing culture (dela-kultur), Open source, programing and more.

Teachers using Wikimedia have recently won both Guldäpplet and Kvalitetspriset Fjädern.

Wikimedia and Businesses

A free license on the material means that it can be used commercially by local business that are lacking funds.

Contributes to **open source** which create **opportunities for SMEs** as they don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Releasing your material under a free license supports the local technical industry and local innovation.



Wikimedia and Catastrophes

OpenStreetMap – maps will soon be included on Wikipedia

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) focuses on creating better maps during catastrophes.

A source for public **medical information in the local language** – Wikipedia was more used than WHO during the Ebola outbreak.

THANKS!

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Images

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